Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Cancelled):

2.   (Currently Amended): A method for generating real-time announcements in a digital packet-based telecommunications network wherein data is transferred from a source to a destination in packets for receipt by the destination, and wherein the packets include a header containing address and sequencing information, the method comprising:

    sensing a predetermined trigger event;

    inserting a priority indicator into the header of a packetized announcement indicating high priority for the packetized announcement

    transmitting the packetized announcement with the data for receipt by the destination upon sensing the predetermined trigger event; and

    processing the packetized announcement immediately for receipt by the destination in real-time;

    ~~The method as recited in claim 1~~ wherein processing includes suspending processing of the data until the packetized announcement has been processed.

3.   (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim ~~1~~2 wherein transmitting the packetized announcement comprises merging the packetized announcement with the data.

4.   (Currently Amended): A method for generating real-time announcements in a digital packet-based telecommunications network wherein data is transferred from a source to a destination in packets for receipt by the destination, and wherein the packets include a header containing address and sequencing information, the method comprising:

Appl. No. 09/479,952
Amdt. dated November 8, 2004
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group

PATENT

sensing a predetermined trigger event;

inserting a priority indicator into the header of a packetized announcement indicating high priority for the packetized announcement

transmitting the packetized announcement with the data for receipt by the destination upon sensing the predetermined trigger event; and

processing the packetized announcement immediately for receipt by the destination in real-time;

~~The method as recited in claim 1~~ wherein transmitting the packetized announcement comprises dropping the data and transmitting only the packetized announcement.

5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Currently Amended): A method for generating real-time announcements in a digital packet-based telecommunications network wherein data is transferred from a source to a destination in packets for receipt by the destination, and wherein the packets include a header containing address and sequencing information, the method comprising:

sensing a predetermined trigger event;

inserting a priority indicator into the header of a packetized announcement indicating high priority for the packetized announcement

transmitting the packetized announcement with the data for receipt by the destination upon sensing the predetermined trigger event; and

processing the packetized announcement immediately for receipt by the destination in real-time;

~~The method as recited in claim 1~~ wherein sensing the predetermined trigger event includes sensing a predetermined amount of time.

7.   (Original): The method as recited in claim 6 wherein processing the announcement includes generating an announcement identifying an amount of time elapsed.

Appl. No. 09/479,952
Amdt. dated November 8, 2004
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group

PATENT

8.	(Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein the announcement is an audible announcement.

9.	(Original): The method as recited in claim 8 wherein the announcement is a pre-recorded voice announcement.

10.	(Original): The method as recited in claim 8 wherein the announcement is a synthesized announcement.

11.	(Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein the announcement is a visual announcement

12.	(Original): The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the visual announcement is a graphical announcement.

13.	(Original): The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the visual announcement is a textual announcement.

14.	(Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein the announcement is a vibratory signal.

15.	(Cancelled):

16.	(Currently Amended): A system for generating real-time announcements in a digital packet-based telecommunications network wherein data is transferred from a source to a destination in packets for receipt by the destination, and wherein the packets include a header containing address and sequencing information, the system comprising:

	an announcement server for sensing a predetermined trigger event and for inserting a priority indicator into the header of a packetized announcement indicating high priority for the packetized announcement;

a packet-based network in communication with the announcement server for transmitting the packetized announcement with the data for receipt by the destination upon the predetermined trigger event being sensed; and

a processing device in communication with the packet-based network for receiving and processing the packetized announcement immediately for receipt by the destination in real-time;

~~The system as recited in claim 15~~ wherein the processing device, in processing the packetized announcement, is further operative to suspend processing of the data until the packetized announcement has been processed.

17.   (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim ~~15~~ 16 wherein the packet-based network, in transmitting the packetized announcement, is further operative to merge the packetized announcement with the data.

18.   (Currently Amended): A system for generating real-time announcements in a digital packet-based telecommunications network wherein data is transferred from a source to a destination in packets for receipt by the destination, and wherein the packets include a header containing address and sequencing information, the system comprising:

an announcement server for sensing a predetermined trigger event and for inserting a priority indicator into the header of a packetized announcement indicating high priority for the packetized announcement;

a packet-based network in communication with the announcement server for transmitting the packetized announcement with the data for receipt by the destination upon the predetermined trigger event being sensed; and

a processing device in communication with the packet-based network for receiving and processing the packetized announcement immediately for receipt by the destination in real-time;

Appl. No. 09/479,952
Amdt. dated November 8, 2004
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group

PATENT

~~The system as recited in claim 17~~ wherein the packet-based network, in transmitting the packetized announcement, is further operative to drop the data and transmit only the packetized announcement.

19.   (Cancelled)

20.   (Currently Amended): <u>A system for generating real-time announcements in a digital packet-based telecommunications network wherein data is transferred from a source to a destination in packets for receipt by the destination, and wherein the packets include a header containing address and sequencing information, the system comprising:</u>

<u>an announcement server for sensing a predetermined trigger event and for inserting a priority indicator into the header of a packetized announcement indicating high priority for the packetized announcement;</u>

<u>a packet-based network in communication with the announcement server for transmitting the packetized announcement with the data for receipt by the destination upon the predetermined trigger event being sensed; and</u>

<u>a processing device in communication with the packet-based network for receiving and processing the packetized announcement immediately for receipt by the destination in real-time;</u>

~~The system as recited in claim 15~~ wherein the announcement server, in sensing the predetermined trigger event, is further operative to sense a predetermined amount of time.

21.   (Original): The system as recited in claim 20 wherein the processing device, in processing the announcement, is further operative to generate an announcement identifying an amount of time elapsed.

22.   (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim ~~15~~ <u>16</u> wherein the announcement is an audible announcement.

Appl. No. 09/479,952
Amdt. dated November 8, 2004
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group

PATENT

23.   (Original): The system as recited in claim 22 wherein the announcement is a pre-recorded voice announcement.

24.   (Original): The system as recited in claim 22 wherein the announcement is a synthesized announcement.

25.   (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim ~~15~~ 16 wherein the announcement is a visual announcement.

26.   (Original): The system as recited in claim 25 wherein the visual announcement is a graphical announcement.

27.   (Original): The system as recited in claim 25 wherein the visual announcement is a textual announcement.

28.   (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim ~~15~~ 16 wherein the announcement is a vibratory signal.

29.   (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim ~~15~~ 16 wherein the processing device is a wireless handset.

30.   (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim ~~15~~ 16 wherein the processing device is a component of a wireless network.